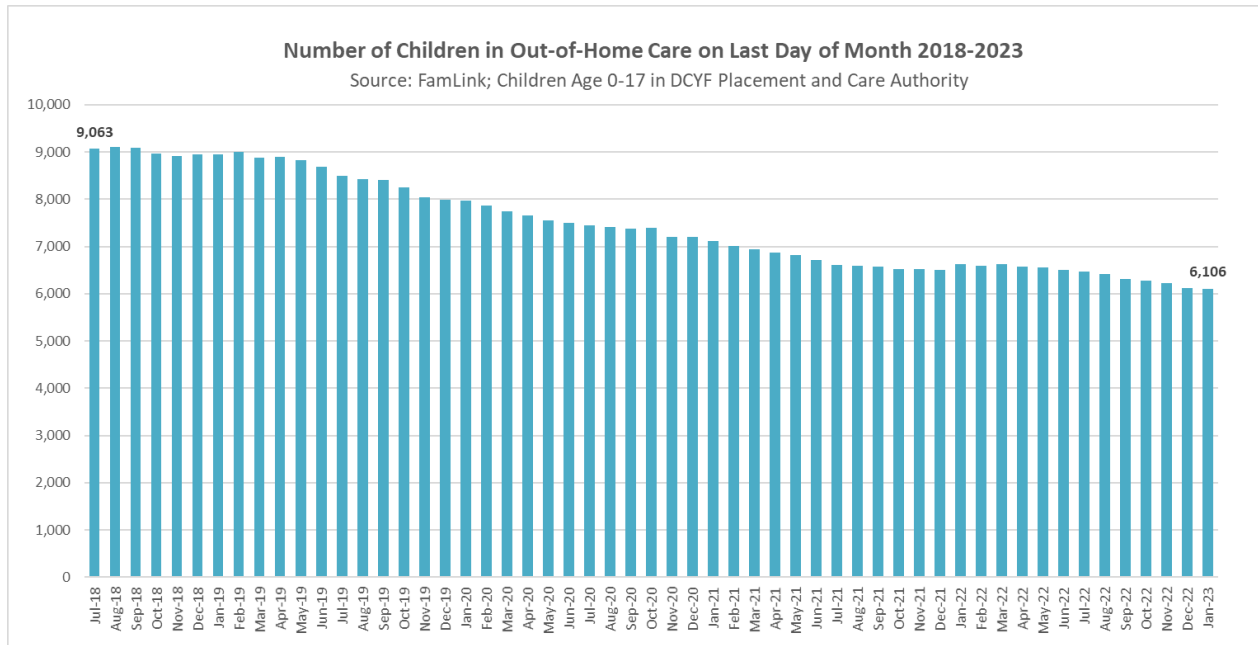


Re-entry Rate: Washington and Other States

Re-entry Rate Compared to Other States

The number of children in out-of-home care in Washington has declined by 32.6 percent since the formation of DCYF in July 2018, and is currently the lowest in over 40 years.



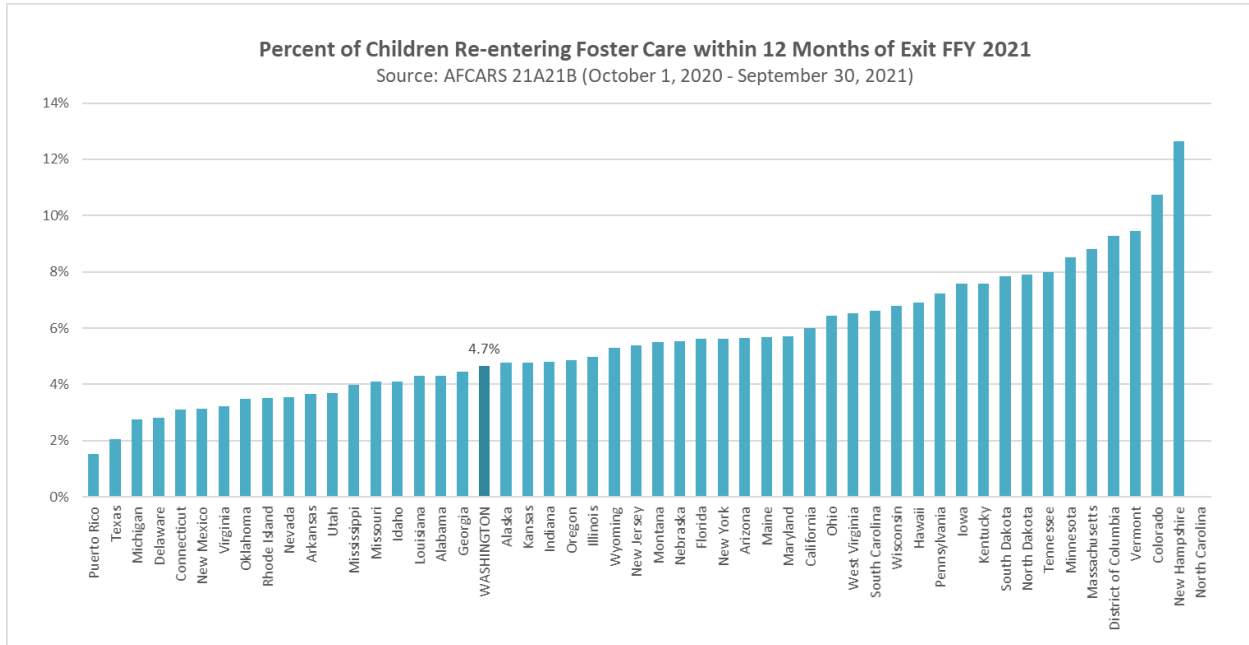
DCYF has been asked what balancing measures we monitor to understand whether children are safe when they exit out-of-home care. One indicator of safe permanency is Washington's re-entry rate, which has remained stable over the most recent three one-year periods available to compare Washington's rate with other states. The state-to-state comparison allows us to understand whether Washington's re-entry rate is relatively high or low. Washington's rate is in the lowest third of state rates in all three years.

Federal Re-entry Measure

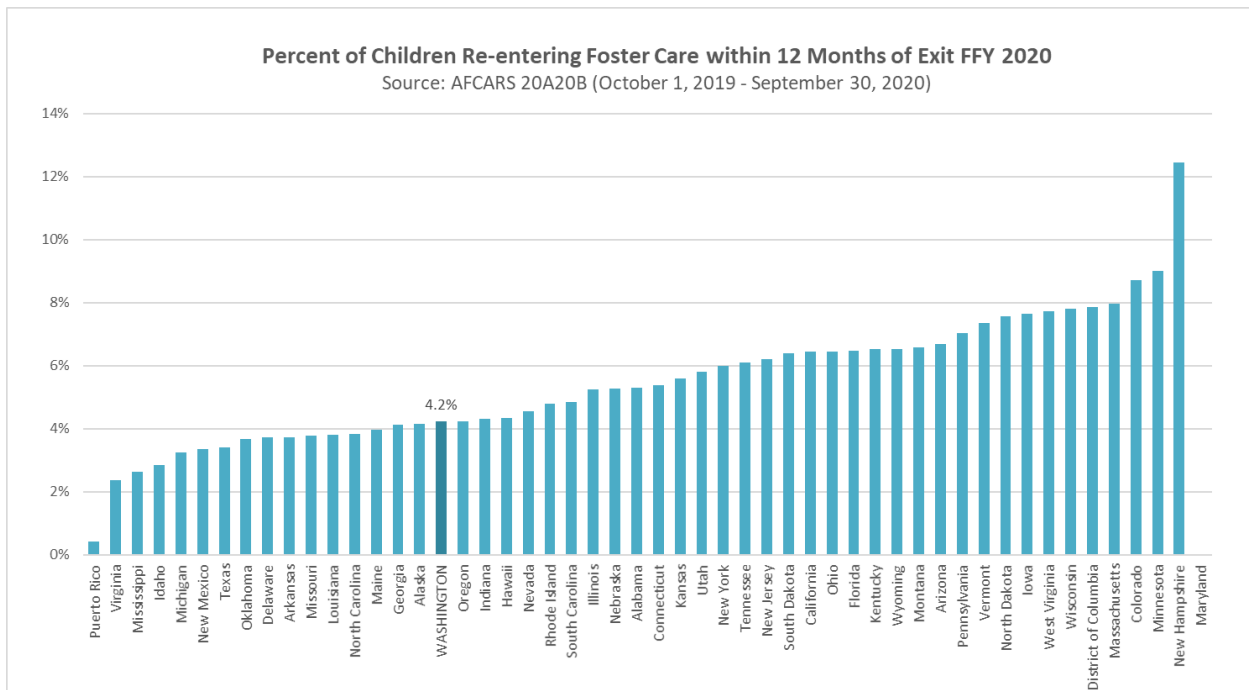
The [federal re-entry measure](#) used to measure re-entry the same way for all states is described as: **Among children who discharged to permanency (excluding adoption) in a 12-month period, the percent who reentered care within 12 months of exit.** A lower rate is better.

The re-entry rate in the following three charts is based on each state’s observed performance for the federal fiscal year indicated. The observed performance indicates how each state performed without any risk adjustments. Washington is designated in the darker color.

Re-entry Rate Federal Fiscal Year 2021

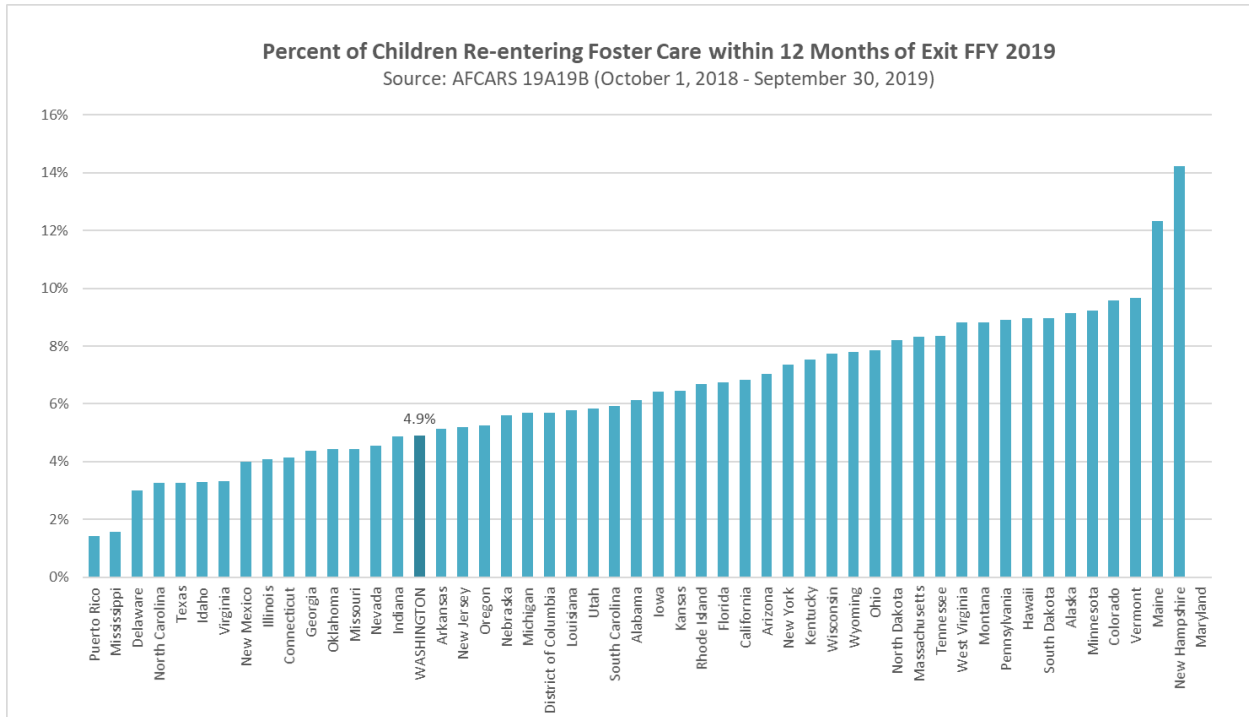


Re-entry Rate Federal Fiscal Year 2020



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Re-entry Rate Federal Fiscal Year 2019

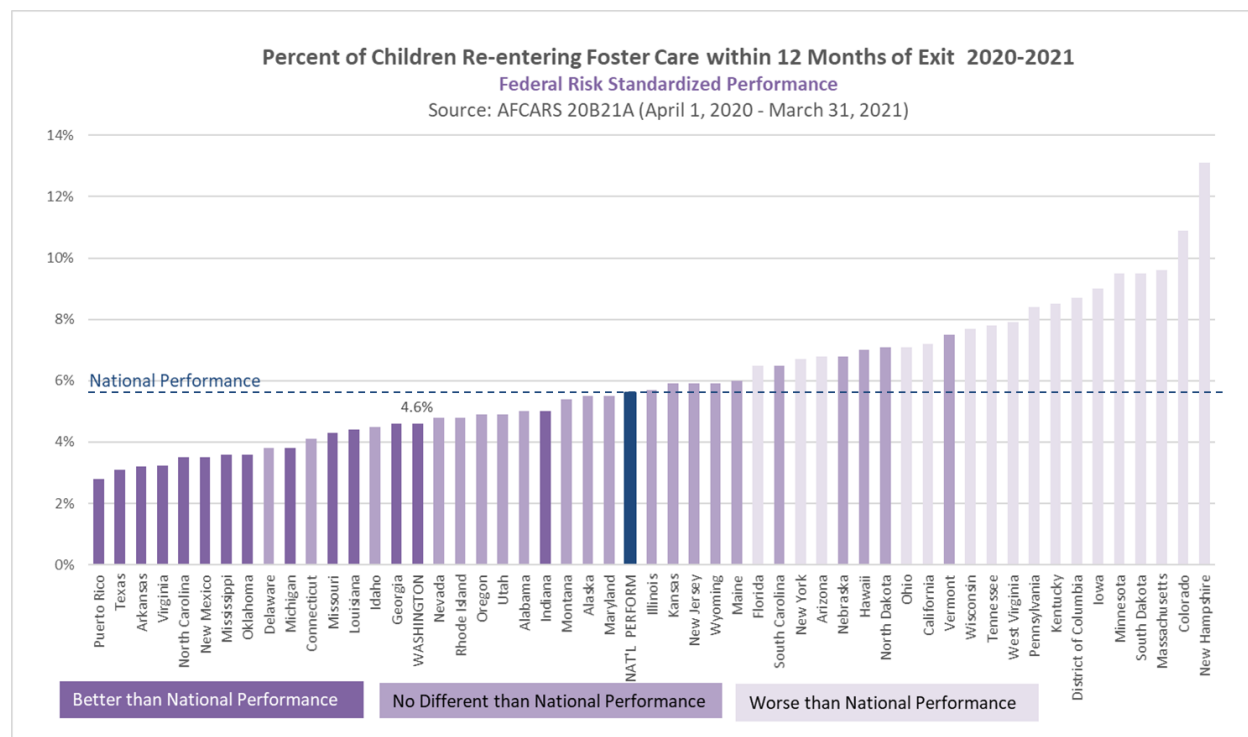


Federal Risk Standardized Performance

The federal Children’s Bureau uses “Risk Standardized Performance” (RSP) to assess state performance on the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) statewide data indicators compared to national performance. RSP accounts for some of the factors that influence performance on the indicators over which states have little control, such as child age, regardless of the quality of care a state provides. The Children’s Bureau indicates that “accounting for such factors allows for a fairer comparison of each state’s performance relative to the national performance”.

The RSP is the only measurement methodology used to determine if a state is statistically better than, no different than, or worse than the national performance. Washington is performing better than national performance, as indicated by the dark purple shading in the chart below.

Re-entry Rate Risk Standardized Performance 2020-2021



Federal Performance Measure Source and Measurement Concepts

The source of all data displayed is foster care data submitted by each state to the national Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). Each state’s re-entry rate, both observed performance and risk standardized performance, is calculated by the federal Children’s Bureau.

The federal re-entry measure description, RSP for all states, and the descriptions of the measurement concepts used in the federal performance calculations are excerpted from the [Child and Family Services Reviews Frequently Asked Questions: Understanding Statewide Data Indicator Calculations September 2022](#) and the [CFSR 4 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook October 2022](#).

National Performance

National performance is how the nation as a whole performed on a given data indicator. The national performance was calculated and fixed with data at the time the measures were developed, covering 10/1/2018 through 9/30/2021. The national performance is used as a reference point to determine if a state performed statistically better, worse, or no different than the nation after taking into account some of the factors over which states have little control.

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Observed Performance

Observed performance describes how a state performed on a given indicator, without any adjustments.

Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP)

Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) is used to assess state performance on the CFSR statewide data indicators compared to national performance. RSP accounts for some of the factors that influence performance on the indicators over which states have little control. One example is the ages of children in care; children of different ages have different likelihoods of experiencing an outcome (e.g., achieving permanency), regardless of the quality of care a state provides. Accounting for such factors allows for a fairer comparison of each state's performance relative to the national performance.

Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) Interval

To determine whether a state's performance is statistically better, worse, or no different than national performance, we calculate a 95% confidence interval estimate for the state's RSP. The interval accounts for the amount of uncertainty associated with the RSP value. In other words, we are 95% confident that the value of the RSP is between the lower and upper limit of the interval. The RSP interval is what we use to compare state performance to national performance. If the interval overlaps national performance, the state's performance is statistically no different than national performance. If the interval is above or below national performance, it is statistically different than national performance. Whether higher or lower performance is desirable depends on the desired direction of performance for the indicator.

Safety Monitoring

In addition to monitoring re-entry for children who are placed out-of-home, DCYF developed the [Child Welfare-Health Services Trends](#) dashboard in collaboration with the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division. This dashboard was developed to monitor child protective services intakes and medical visits during the pandemic, particularly abuse-related injuries, in comparison to 2019 which serves as the baseline year.